

IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-18 (cancelled).

Claim 19 (previously presented): A batch comprising:

- a) a refractory,  $Al_2O_3$ -containing metal oxide main component, the refractory metal oxide main component containing 40 to 60% by weight of  $Al_2O_3$ ;
- b) a phosphate bond, in particular, the phosphate bond being produced by a phosphoric acid or a monoaluminum phosphate; and
- c) finely particulate SiC having a grain size of <0.2 mm, the batch containing 3 to 15% by weight of the finely particulate SiC; and
- d) the grain size distribution of the SiC being selected so that more than 2.0% of the SiC, based on a total quantity of the batch, is <0.045 mm.

Claim 20 (previously presented): The batch as claimed in claim 19, wherein the batch contains 80 to 97% by weight of the refractory metal oxide main component.

Claim 21 (previously presented): The batch as claimed in claim 19, wherein the batch has a SiC content of between 3 and 8% by weight.

Claim 22 (currently amended): The batch as claimed in claim 19, wherein the ~~silicon carbide~~ SiC is a fused silicon carbide.

Claim 23 (currently amended): The batch as claimed in Claim 19, wherein the ~~silicon carbide~~ SiC is a regenerated silicon carbide product.

Claim 24 (cancelled).

Claim 25 (currently amended): The batch as claimed in Claim 19, wherein the ~~refractory~~ refractory, Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>-containing metal oxide main component contains up to 15% of refractory clay.

Claim 26 (currently amended): A process for producing a batch, comprising:

- a) mixing a refractory, Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>- containing metal oxide main component containing 40 to 60% by weight of Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> with a finely particulate SiC having a grain size of <0.2 mm; and
- b) adding a phosphoric acid or a monoaluminum phosphate as a binder component to form a mixture;
- c) the SiC being added ~~in to have~~ a fineness and quantity so ~~that more that, based on a total of~~ the batch, more than 2.0% by mass of mass, ~~based on a total batch, of~~ the SiC is <45 mm.

Claim 27 (currently amended): The process as claimed in Claim 26, wherein 80 to 97% by weight of the ~~refractory~~ refractory, Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>-containing metal oxide main component is admixed.

Claim 28 (previously presented): The process as claimed in Claim 26, wherein between 3 and 8% by weight of the SiC is admixed.

Claim 29 (currently amended): The process as claimed in claim 26, wherein up to 15% of the ~~refractory~~ refractory, Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>-containing metal oxide main component is replaced by refractory clay.

Claim 30 (currently amended): The process as claimed in claim 26, wherein a fused silicon carbide is used as the ~~silieone carbide~~ SiC.

Claim 31 (currently amended): The process as claimed in claim 26, wherein a regenerated silicon carbide product is used as the ~~silieon carbide~~ SiC.

Claim 32 (cancelled).

Claim 33 (previously presented): The process as claimed in claim 26, wherein the ~~refractory~~, Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>-containing metal oxide main component is used with a maximum grain size of 4 mm and a grain size distribution which corresponds to that of a typical Fuller curve.

Claim 34 (previously presented): The process as claimed in claim 26, wherein the batch is pressed into shaped bodies using a pressure of from 60 to 110 MPa.

Claim 35 (currently amended) : The process as claimed in claim 34, wherein the shaped bodies are dried at temperatures of over ~~100°C, at about 120°C-100°C~~.

Claim 36 (previously presented): The process as claimed in claim 35, wherein the shaped bodies, after drying, are fired at a sintering temperature of approximately 1100 to 1400°C.

Claim 37 (previously presented): The batch as claimed in Claim 19, wherein a refractory shaped body is fabricated from the batch.

Claim 38 (previously presented): The batch as claimed in Claim 19, wherein the refractory,  $Al_2O_3$ -containing metal oxide main component includes natural raw materials selected from a sillimanite group, a bauxite, a refractory clay and synthetic raw materials.

Claim 39 (previously presented): The batch as claimed in Claim 19, wherein the refractory,  $Al_2O_3$ -containing metal oxide main component includes natural raw materials selected from a sillimanite group.

Claim 40 (previously presented): The batch as claimed in Claim 19, wherein the refractory,  $Al_2O_3$ -containing metal oxide main component includes natural raw materials selected from a bauxite.

Claim 41 (previously presented): The batch as claimed in Claim 19, wherein the refractory,  $Al_2O_3$ -containing metal oxide main component includes natural raw materials selected from a refractory clay.

Claim 42 (previously presented): The batch as claimed in Claim 19, wherein the refractory,  $Al_2O_3$ -containing metal oxide main component includes natural raw materials and/or synthetic raw materials.

Claim 43 (previously presented): The batch as claimed in Claim 42, wherein the synthetic raw materials include a sintered mullite, a calcined alumina, a sintered conrundum and/or a fused conrundum.

Claim 44 (previously presented): The process as claimed in Claim 26, wherein natural raw materials and/or synthetic raw materials are used as the refractory,  $Al_2O_3$ -containing metal oxide main component.

Claim 45 (previously presented): The process as claimed in Claim 44, wherein the natural raw materials include raw materials selected from a sillimanite group, a bauxite or a refractory clay.

Claim 46 (previously presented): The process as claimed in Claim 44, wherein the synthetic raw materials include a sintered mullite, a fused mullite, a calcined alumina, a sintered conrundum or a fused conrundum.